REMARKS

Applicants request favorable reconsideration of this application. Claims 1-13 remain pending in the application.

Both of the rejections in the Office Action rely on US Publication 2006/0068270. The inventors listed for that publication are Ino, Asada and Sato, the same as the present inventors. Therefore, the reference is not by "another" and cannot qualify as 35 USC 102(a) or (e) prior art. The parent PCT application and Japanese priority application of the reference were published on July 15 and 22, 2004, respectively. Since this is less than one year before the March 3, 2005 effective US filing date for the present application (the filing date of PCT/JP2005/003649 of which the present application is the US national stage), the reference does not qualify as 35 USC 102(b) prior art. Therefore, the reference is not available as prior art against the present application and the rejections should be withdrawn.

A translation of JP 2004-004745 was provided with the Office Action. Applicants note that this reference was not among those cited in the International Search Report, but that JP 2004-047450 was. Applicants mention this in case the Examiner had intended to obtain a translation of JP 2004-04750 and inadvertently requested the wrong publication. If JP 2004-04745 was intended, Applicants request that it be listed on the form PTO 892.

Favorable reconsideration in the form of a Notice of Allowance is requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned if any issues remain that prevent the allowance of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

HAMRE, SCHUMANN, MUELLER & LARSON, P.C.

P.O. Box 2902

Minneapolis, MN 55402-0902

Phone 612-455-3800

Date: September 1, 2008

Name: Douglas P. Mueller

Reg. No. 30,300 Customer No. 52835